Catholic Theatre Conference

PRODUCTION CALENDAR

Vol. 9 NOVEMBER 1949 No. 2

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MUNDELEIN COLLEGE INVITES CONFERENCE FOR 1951 CONVENTION

The biggest piece of news - and the most welcome - to reach our President and the national office is the invitation from Mundelein College to hold the next national convention there.

We are most grateful to Sister Mary Josephine, President of the College, and to Sister Mary Jeanelle and Sister Mary Carmelia, drama director and speech teacher and to Sister Mary Angelita of Immaculate Conception Academy, Davenport, who is chairman of the Central Region.

The invitation will be presented to the Executive Board for action during their semi-annual meeting, which will be held in Chicago between Christmas and New Years. In the meantime if you have any points in favor of or against the idea, which you would like to have the Board consider, please send them to the national office.

The invitation carries the following reasons for Mundelein being an ideal spot: the last two conventions were on either coast so a central location would make it convenient for everyone to attend; many fine hotels are within walking distance; transportation is almost ideal-street cars, bus, elevated and subway; the proximity of Loyola Community Theatre where sessions could also be planned; Mundelein itself has a large auditorium, a Little Theatre and radio facilities; all visiting sisters could be housed right in the building or in the residence

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NOTICE

Please take note of address on envelope. Is it correct? Are the Calendars being sent to the proper person or has there been a change this fall in your director or President (in the case of community theatre groups)?

If there is any change please notify us immediately.

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Thanksgiving weekend is the busiest we have known in the Conference. With Play Festivals scheduled in four cities the Conference will become even better known and more firmly established.

The Central Region will hold two festivals - one in Chicago and one in Milwaukee. Loyola Academy will play host for the Chicago three day festival with Mr. Walter Bamberger as chairman. He is being assisted by Mr. Walter J. Kapica, S.J., Sister Mary Agnese, S.P., Miss Therese Marie Cuny and Miss Anna Helen Reuter. The dates are Nov. 25, 26 and 27 - 23 high schools participating. The Critic-Judge is Dr. Marie Toland of Wisc. State Teachers College.

St. Mary's Academy will be hostess for the Milwaukee high school festival. Sister M. Veronice, O.S.F. is chairman with Miss Mary Virginia Rodigan as the Critic-Judge. Miss Rodigan is Director of the Department of Speech, Milwaukee State Teachers' College. The dates are Nov. 25, 26 and 27 and nine schools have entered plays. Eight are from Milwaukee; the ninth from Racine.

The Pacific Northwest Region holds its first high school festival under the chairmanship of Rev. Anthony Juliano, regional director. Immaculata Academy plays hostess with arrangements being handled by Sister M. Edmund, O.P. Six schools are participating - the date is Nov. 26.

The North-Central Region's festival is being held in Minneapolis at the Academy of the Holy Angels under the chairmanship of Sister M. Charitas, the

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MUNDELEIN COLLEGE INVITATION

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hall; Loyola University would assume co-chairmanship; Loyola's lovely new chapel will be available for Mass; excellent eating places and theatres can be reached without inconvenience; radio and television programs can be arranged for at the major studios.

Does it sound enticing?

A thank-you letter was sent to Sister Mary Josephine on behalf of the Conference. Mundelein College is and always has been a most active and cooperative member. They have sponsored a splendid college play festival, given benefit performances and been interested and helpful in all Conference undertakings. Sister Mary Carmelia represented the college at the convention in Los Angeles.

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES (cont'd.)

regional director. This is a Twin-City festival with 9 schools from St. Paul and Minneapolis participating.

Our sincere thanks go to these chairmen who have been working so diligently for the cultivation of good theatre in their regions and for the growth and promotion of the Conference.

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The Mid-Atlantic Region will hold a meeting of directors at Fordham University Dec. 3 following a production of Moliere's, "The Doctor in Spite of Himself" in the afternoon in the Penthouse Theatre. Regional Chairman, Edgar L. Kloten, will preside. Reports on the national convention will be given and plans laid for future regional activity.

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Sister M. Immaculate of Wheeling, West Virginia, chairman of the Southern Region, has been conducting a letter-writing campaign far and wide in the south in search of new members. The area includes many states in which there is a limited Catholic population. If any members know of likely prospects please send them to Sister at St. Joseph Academy, 1322 Eoff St., Wheeling, West Virginia.

1949-50 BULLETIN

We trust that by now everyone has received his or her copies of the BULLETIN. Our Editor, Rev. James Donohue of Loras College, has turned out a publication of which we can well be proud! The editing and layout work and all the other multitudinous details of such a publication are time-consuming and very often nerve-wracking. Our sincere thanks go to Father Donohue for his patience in awaiting many items before the magazine could finally go to press and for the excellence of his finished product.

We judge from the number of Los Angeles items that former Editor, Rev. Karl G. Schroeder, and President Joseph F. Rice, made good use of the summer in gathering these items of special interest. Our deep appreciation to them.

Orders placed for eight Bulletins through twenty-five were mailed by Father Donohue directly from Dubuque. These totalled some three hundred. The remainder of the 1700 were shipped to the national office. Orders for one to seven Bulletins were sent from the office including one extra copy. This is the copy to which each member and subscriber is entitled as part of his or her membership or subscription. Members who did not place any orders were sent this one complimentary copy.

Just as soon as we have cleared records with Father Donohue on any payments made directly to him we will bill members who still owe the $5.00 for their cut and owe for magazines ordered. You can facilitate matters by making your payments now and help save on the clerical work and accounting.

There are copies still for sale at $1.00 per copy. Now that you have seen the Bulletin perhaps you will want to order more. Individual students may want their own copy - directors and group members who did attend or couldn't attend the national convention may want it as a memento and record - cast members appearing in the photographs may want one as a souvenir - more sales will help defray the expense of printing this beautiful record of Catholic theatre in Action.

PUBLICITY INSERT

This issue of the Calendar carries an enclosure in the form of a questionnaire on your drama activities drawn up by our national Publicity Director, Judson LaHaye. We ask your cooperation in filling in the desired information and returning it to Mr. LaHaye in care of WFUV-FM, Fordham University.

A complete return of this Publicity Sheet will present a Cross-country picture of what is being done in Catholic theatre or what is planned for the future. Thus newspaper stories, magazine articles, diocesan and metropolitan releases can be slanted toward what is being done collectively to give the readers a national and international picture.

If you come across news items or pictures carried by National Catholic News Service pertaining to Catholic Theatre Conference activities we will appreciate your sending the office a copy. It is the only way we will have any idea of coverage since a Clipping Bureau Service is too expensive a service for us. We would like to set up a Press Book and have it as complete as can be with your kind assistance.

MATS AVAILABLE

In addition to the two-inch mats of St. Genesius available in the past we now have four-inch ones also. These are available to all members without any charge for use on your programs, announcements, stationery or any other printing concerned with Catholic Theatre Conference activities.

For the benefit of new members the art work was done by Robert Robbins, New York artist and sculptor, especially for the Conference. The design shows St. Genesius with the masks of comedy and tragedy in either hand. Around his head in a halo-like effect are the words "Saint Genesius".

Why not use it on your next program?

OVERDUE SCRIPTS

The plea carried in a previous Calendar has unearthed some of the long buried scripts. But there are still others - let's get them back so they can be sent to members whose privilege it is to borrow them!

FOR THE FUTURE

Walter Hampden will co-star with Grace George in Guthrie McClintic's production of Rosemary Casey's MOTHER HILDEBRAND due in New York Dec. 27.

Rodgers and Hammerstein have bought for immediate production a dramatization of Graham Greene's novel, THE HEART OF THE MATTER. The recent best seller was adapted for the stage by the author and Basil Dean, British director, who will stage the work. The play will retain the book's title and will enter rehearsals as soon as a cast has been assembled.

NEW YORK BLACKFRIARS' GUILD "SHAKE HANDS WITH THE DEVIL"

The New York Blackfriars cast, under the direction of Dennis Gurney, shook hands with Communism in their current play and by a series of flashbacks shows its audiences the Communist infiltration of everyday American life.

Produced in Living Newspaper technique combined with documentary reporting, the script opens with a trial that parallels the recent Communist court trial in New York. Using this as its basis the documentary discloses six episodes in the fields of communications, labor, human rights, the racial problem, espionage and religion. The flashbacks dramatize the episodes of the Kasenkina case, the Allis-Chalmers strike, the Scottsboro case, the Canadian spy ring and the case of Cardinal Mindszenty. It was written by Robert Healey in collaboration with Rev. Urban Nagle, O.P.

The Catholic News called it "a smashing indictment of American Communism". Vernon Rice in the N. Y. Post remarked, "Dennis Gurney, the director, has brought out some of the best performances from the company that have been seen in Blackfriars' productions". William Hawkins in his World-Telegram review headlined it as a "Devishly Good Play" and referred to it as one of Blackfriars' "most striking productions" with the "acting generally excellent".

The play is scheduled to run through December 10.

ADDED TO LIBRARY

DINNER FOR THRESHERS - one act for six females. Dramatic Publishing Company - royalty $5.00.

EASY EXIT - thrilling one act for 6 females depicting some problems of present day espionage. Action laid in Atomic Research Station. Royalty $5.00 - Baker Publishing Co.

GOODBYE MISS LIZZIE BORDEN - sinister one act based on the famous Borden murder case in Fall River, Mass. in 1892. 4 females, 1 child. Royalty $5.00 - Baker Publishing Co.

JOHN SHANAHAN, ME BOY - one act in 2 scenes - 1 setting. 3 males, 3 females. Two of the male characters are boys of ten and eleven. Time of story is four days before Christmas in the office of Sister Mary John, Sister Superior of St. Anthony's Orphanage. Comedy with touches of pathos. Written by Francis Michael Casey, published by Samuel French Company, Royalty $5.00.

LADIES OF THE WHITE HOUSE - chronological play for 17 females. Written in free verse by Constance D'Arcy Mackay, it includes some of the most famous and some of the less known ladies from Abigail Adams to Mrs. Lincoln. Baker Publication - Royalty $5.00.

LA POSADA - Christmas play in one act embodying the Christmas customs of Mexico. 6 (or 7) males; 5 (or 6) females; colorful setting. Published by Dramatists Play Service - Royalty $5.00.

STAR BRIGHT and Four other plays for the teens - mixed casts for 3 plays; all female for 2. Appendix contains floor plans for each production with listing of furniture required and suggestions for lighting. Royalty on application to Row, Peterson & Co.

WHEN QUEENS RIDE BY - a contest reading arranged from Agnes Sligh Turnbull's story of the same name by Olive White Fortenbacher. Published by Baker Co.

CONTINENTAL PLAYS - Vol. 1 - selected and edited by Thos. Dickinson. Contains ten plays, including Claudel's "The Tidings Brought to Mary".

BOOK OF ORIGINAL PLAYS and HOW TO GIVE THEM. Includes short plays for kindergarten age, 8 to 12 year olds, 12 to 16 year olds and for older players. Published by A. S. Barnes & Co., New York.

BEST THERE IS, THE - one act drama with 5 females and 4 males. Laid in nurses' office on surgical floor of a modern hospital. Published by Row, Peterson & Co. Royalty $5.00.

CHANGED COMMAND - Biblical one act with 4 males, 4 females, 1 boy and extra males. Street scene after the Resurrection. No royalty - purchase of 6 copies @ 50¢ each is required. Published by Row, Peterson & Co.

GIMME TIME - fantasy in one act, scene: a breakfast nook. Modern costumes, 2 males, 1 female and 4 players (either boys or girls) who may wear masks. Royalty $5.00. Row, Peterson & Co. publication.

LADIES WITH LAMPS - drama in one act; scene: outer reception room adjoining the children's ward of a hospital. 1 male, 5 females plus 8 or more children (who have few lines). This script was winner of First Prize in one-act play division of regional playwriting contest sponsored by the Philadelphia Art Alliance and ANTA. Royalty $5.00 - Row, Peterson & Co.

XINGU - one act - 8 females - a dramatization of Edith Wharton's well-known story. Interior setting. Royalty $5.00 - Dramatists Play Service.

PEER GYNT - 5 acts - acting version arranged by the late Richard Mansfield, published by Walter H. Baker Co. Large cast, numerous sets but not too difficult. Non-royalty.

ME AND MOLLY - comedy by Gertrude Berg, which played on Broadway during 1948 season. Written around chief figures in radio series, "The Goldbergs". 12 males (including bit roles); 9 females - 1 interior setting. Check with Dramatists Play Service to see if it is available in your area. Royalty $50-$25.

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WE NOTE WITH INTEREST:

The poem, VIGIL OF ALL SOULS, which appears in the November issue of THE CATHOLIC WORLD, has as its author, Anthony J. Juliano. Our Pacific Northwest Regional Chairman, Father Juliano, admits it's his..... wrote it in five minutes!

The use of the figure of Saint Genesius on many play programs and the mention in the programs that the producing group is a member of the Catholic Theatre Conference. It's a good publicity idea - that mention may prompt inquiries and result in new memberships.

Fordham University Radio Station WFUV-FM in cooperation with Dr. A. Kurtz, Director of N.Y. College of Music will sponsor the first concert in an educational series for 1949-50 on Dec. 14th in Collins auditorium on the Fordham campus. Dr. Kurtz will conduct an orchestra of members of the Philharmonic Symphony Society of N. Y. and Mischa Mischakoff, violinist and concert master of the NBC-Toscanini Symphony Orchestra will be the featured soloist.

Janet LaFramboise of Catholic Theatre of Detroit awarded an $1800 scholarship in music by the Pius XII Graduate School of Fine Arts in Florence. She sailed from New York on the Queen Elizabeth with Lynn Lauder of Amarillo, Texas, who will also study music at the Graduate School.

Catholic Theatre of Detroit represented in New York by Marie Phillips in "Goodbye My Fancy"; Paul Lilly playing the role of Prosecuting Attorney in Blackfriars' "Shake Hands with the Devil" and appearing in television shows; Jon Collins Directing "The Family Upstairs" for St. Ignatius Parish; Rita Akerson and Jack O'Connor playing important roles in the Genesian Guild production of "Papa is All"; Maryann Carlin teaching two classes in the "Art of Conversation" at the Carroll Club; Terry Little Stage manager for "Miss Liberty".

Bob Emerich, who taught at Loras College last year, is directing the Carroll Club's Little Theatre and the productions at St. Peter's College in Jersey City.

The Christophers are giving an award of $100.00 monthly to the person who submits the best factual account telling "what one person can do" in a Christopher way. All entries must be postmarked before midnight of the last day of each month in which they will be considered. Names and circumstances the writer wishes kept confidential will be withheld from any publication that may follow. All entries become the property of the Christophers and no correspondence regarding them will be undertaken. Entries should be typewritten or written legibly in ink. Send them to The Christophers, 18 East 48th Street, New York City.

George Abbott and a representative from the Schubert office were sufficiently interested in Fordham's musical, "COME BACK ON TUESDAY", to travel up to the Bronx to witness it.

Felix Doherty signed contract with Samuel French to publish and handle the production rights for his play on St. Thomas More, THE KING'S SERVANT.

A.E.T.A. and S.A.A. CONVENTIONS

The American Educational Theatre Association, American Speech and Hearing Association, the Speech Association of America and the Committee on Debate Materials and Interstate Cooperation will hold a three day convention in Chicago, December 28, 29 and 30. Headquarters will be at the Hotel Stevens.

On Dec. 26 an advance meeting of college theatre teachers has been called by Mr. Hubert Heffner, President of AETA, in preparation for the Theatre Assembly called by ANTA in Washington. Catholic Theatre Conference President, Joseph F. Rice will be in attendance.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

The semi-annual meeting of the Conference Executive Board has been changed from its tentative New York call to Chicago during the week between Christmas and New Years. Board members and Regional Chairmen will be able to attend sessions of the AETA and SAA convention. The exact date of the meeting will be announced in the December Calendar.

ADDED TO LIBRARY (Cont'd.)

MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS - comedy in 3 acts with one setting. 7 males, nine females. Based upon the book by the same name written by Sally Benson. Royalty $25.00 - Dramatic Publishing Company.

MOTHER IS A FRESHMAN - dramatized by Perry Clark from the story by Raphael David Blau. Comedy in 3 acts - 1 set and 1 inset. Six males and nine females. Royalty $25.00 - Dramatic Publishing Company.

SEVENTEENTH SUMMER - dramatized by Anne Coulter Martens from the book by Maureen Daly. 3 acts - one setting, 6 males and 7 females.

SING OUT, SWEET LAND - a musical biography of American Song by Walter Kerr. Large cast (male and female) and Chorus - roles may be doubled if director so wishes. The script carries a Prefatory Production Note giving minimum scenic requirements and listing of songs used. Can be produced with a full orchestra or one or two pianos for accompaniment. Royalty quoted upon application to Baker Publishing Company. Play text is $1.00; manuscript orchestration (9 parts) available for deposit fee of $25.00, $10.00 of which represents royalty for use of music.

THESE GOLDEN DAYS - a play in 3 acts for women written by Sophie Gage. 15 females - story combines humor with drama. Script 85¢ royalty $25.00 - Baker Publishing Company.

EUROPEAN THEORIES OF THE DRAMA with a SUPPLEMENT ON THE AMERICAN DRAMA edited by Barrett H. Clark. Contains great writings on dramatic technique from Aristotle through Moliere, Lope de Vega, Ibsen and many others. The supplement was written by critics and working dramatists as G. P. Baker, George Jean Nathan, John Mason Brown, Eugene O'Neill, John Gassner, Maxwell Anderson and others.

IDOLS - one act play - 6 females, written by Phoebe M. Rees. Production rights controlled by Baker Publishing Company.

TOUCH AND GO STAYS FOR BROADWAY RUN!

Catholic University and Jean and Walter Kerr have been represented on Broadway on several previous occasions but for short-lived runs. But now their musical, TOUCH AND GO, looks like it will stay awhile at the Broadhurst Theatre!

The critics were divided in their opinions but Brooks Atkinson of the N.Y. Times gave it an excellent review. The portion we liked best was: "The Kerrs have accomplished that almost impossible feat of bringing good minds into the squalid mart of Broadway and satirizing intelligent topics with swift dexterity and without feeling condescending about it".

Mr. Atkinson's other comments included "By throwing a few brains around where they are not too conspicuous, Jean and Walter Kerr have written a capital light revue which was put on with skill and wit.. being literate people the Kerrs know what is going on in the manners of our time and they say so with charm and impishness.....is good-humored, bright, original and intelligent...in speed, looks and style is in the best professional taste".

In addition to the regular review which appeared in a daily issue Mr. Atkinson devoted his long Sunday article to the production. Again he referred to the "pleasant, breezy and informed wit" of the Kerrs and to the "swift, wry, bright and discerning writing". He comments that George Abbott made a shrewd business decision in permitting Walter Kerr to attend to his own stage direction. The article winds up by calling TOUCH AND GO "the most enjoyable new show of this season. Apart from being funny it is intelligent. The Kerrs have a point of view".

Our sincere congratulations to them and to Catholic University drama department where the musical first saw the light of day under the title "Thank You, Just Looking".

IN SYMPATHY

The Conference extends its sympathy to National Publicity Director, Judson LaHaye, on the death of his mother November 8, in Bridgeport, Conn.